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# Extension Service

# Review

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## Agents mobilize shock troops in battle for food in South Dakota

W. E. DITTMER, District Extension Supervisor

■ The job of harvesting and saving a small-grain crop four times larger than that of last year found Walworth County farmers in north central South Dakota with a real problem on their hands. A much larger "task force" of harvesting machinery, power, and help was called for than they had or ever needed before.

In the first week of August, Walworth County farmers were face to face with the tremendous task of harvesting a 130,000-acre small-grain crop that looked better than 4½ million bushels, 3 million bushels more than the 1941 crop of 1.3 million bushels.

The problem of saving this record crop had to be met in many other counties in South Dakota. Farmers found themselves with an acute shortage of help, binders, tractors, and combines on their farms to get the job done.

Fortunately, the binders, tractors, and the few combines in Walworth County were in good repair to tackle the job, thanks to the farm machinery repair program and clinics in the county and State last winter. The extra repairs bought then have kept many of these overtaxed machines going, but there were still not enough machines and help available to get this "battle for food" won in time.

As the "zero" hour for harvest approached, Walworth County farmers made their needs known. The calls were very specific; more combines and shockers were needed to go over the "top." None of the calls that crossed the path of James Hopkins, county extension agent, went unheeded. He had his share of these calls, too. Mr. Hopkins, who is always ready to help his farmers, rolled up his sleeves a little more and did his part to get the job done. In fact, he was soon taking a very active part in directing help and machines where they were needed. No extra hired men were available when harvest started.

Outside of Mobridge, Walworth County does not have any large towns that could supply an appreciable amount of volunteer help.

"Shock troops" of businessmen, boys and girls, and even women were "mustered" in every town and village. They went into action, working very hard to help with the harvest wherever sent. These "shock troops" set up more than 6,000 acres of grain, receiving, on an average, 50 cents an acre for their work. Although unheralded, the women, girls, and boys living right on farms filled the greatest share of the labor shortage. One farmer said that 40 percent of the grain shocked in his community was done by boys and girls and women on the farm.

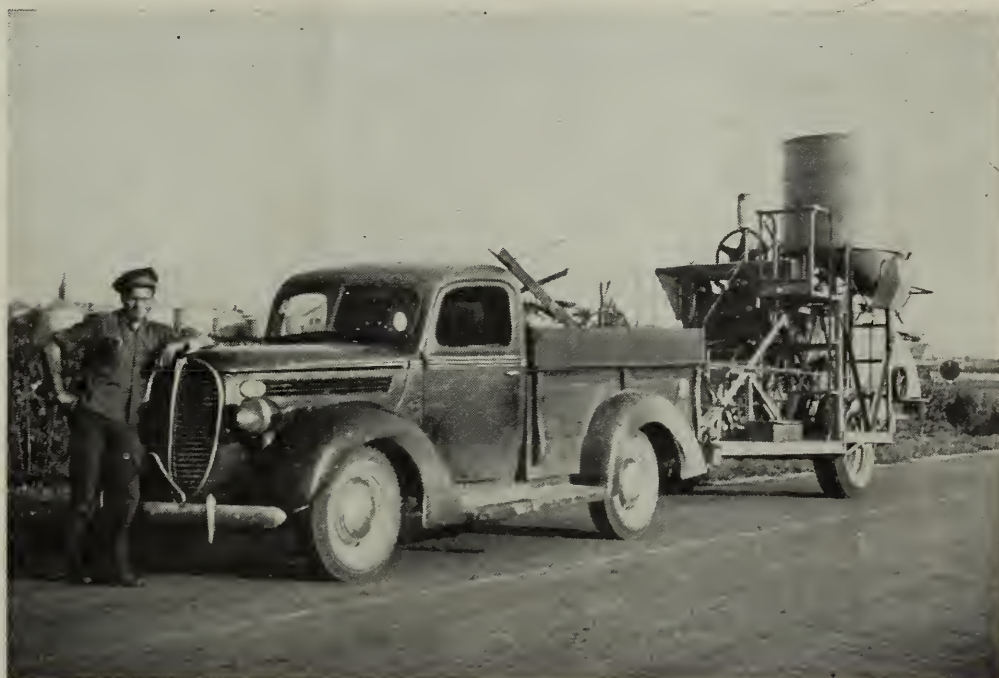
The grain ripened faster than this "army" of local "Waves" and "Waacs" could take care of it. Even though requests for combines had been made before harvest, none would stop. Those going through were headed straight for North Dakota destinations.

Normally, farmers in Walworth County

headed about 80 percent of their small-grain crops. Less than 20 percent of the first grain cut this year was headed. The long and heavy grain made the job of heading, loading header barges, and stacking a very difficult and tedious task. Other means for taking care of the crop had to be found.

County Agent Hopkins had a map in his office that showed the location of every farmer who had asked for help or wanted to hire a combine. The situation was growing very serious, some of this ripe grain could not stand much longer. These combines must be stopped. Two big signs were put up at the south and east approaches to the county line on the main highway, displaying in bold letters, "50,000 acres of the best grain in the State to combine; see the county agent at Selby." To make sure that these combines stopped, Mr. Hopkins had "spotters" located along the main highways who called him up when they saw one going by their farm headed for Selby. He went out and stopped them. Mrs. H. Crawford, who lives on a farm 16 miles south of Selby on highway 83 near Lowry, called and gave him a lot of good tips on combines headed that way.

Although a little late, more than 30 power combines were stopped in the "nick of time."





They could be seen rolling across the large fields, like army tanks from a distance, cutting swaths of grain 12 or 14 feet wide that filled large hoppers with golden grain. When one job was done, they were sent onto another farm, harvesting and threshing more than 40,000 acres of small grain this year.

These combines were late in coming through owing to the heavy grain crop that had to be harvested farther south. Most of the power combine machines were brought up from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. They were usually trailed behind a truck that carried a large tractor.

Owing to damp and wet weather, combine operators were not able to get in many hours of work a day for the first 2 weeks, nor to cut more than 8 to 15 acres any day. Later, it was possible to "put away" 20 to 25 acres a day where the grain stood up. As many as 30 acres were combined on some days where all went well.

Most of the grain combined was barley and wheat, very little oats or rye. Jim Moel, who farms five quarters of land, hired 100 acres of

his wheat combined at \$3 an acre. Machines from out of the county did not do all of the combining by any means. There are about 40 combines, mostly "6-footers" owned by farmers in the county, including about 10 bought this year.

Mobilizing an army of harvest hands and machines to save the biggest crop in the history of the county was no small job. Along with the others, Mr. Hopkins did his share. He sent combines that finished their work in his county on to North Dakota. He also encouraged the few extra harvest hands that "trickled" into his county to stay on for threshing. That was even a bigger job.

So the local "task force" of limited "shock troops," header barges, binders, and combines received moral and material support at the "zero" hour when this welcome army of combines went into action. Walworth County farmers were able to save the greater share of their huge crop. Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard can again chalk up another victory on the home front in the "battle for food."

last-mentioned transcription depicted how a former 4-H Club member, one of the first in the county, has continued to work with agricultural extension, and has as his goal a college education for each of his seven children. It also described the experiences of his boys in pig and dairy calf-club work. Needless to say, right out there on the farm or in the home is a splendid place to get natural sound effects.

In all this work the regular procedure has been followed of coordinating the work of the county agent, the home demonstration agent, the subject-matter specialist, and the radio station. Scripts were prepared based on visits with the farm folk who worked with us; and these went over the editorial desk before being used for the recordings. Although they were not always followed to the letter, they did enable the participants to present accurate, timely information on pertinent subjects.

It was learned that short transcriptions 5 to 10 minutes long are best. Of course, this method has been used before, but its value as an indirect teaching device undoubtedly will cause it to receive more attention in the trying days ahead.

## Field transcriptions "pep-up" radio

EDWIN H. ROHRBECK, Extension Editor, Pennsylvania

■ The tire and gasoline situation is forcing all of us to seek out and develop new means of presenting information on agricultural and homemaking subjects to producers and consumers of agricultural products.

As many of the radio stations in Pennsylvania carry daily programs devoted to agriculture, we have been working this summer on the making of transcriptions in the home or on the farm concerning timely agricultural and homemaking subjects to be used by the cooperating radio station on its farm program.

To date we have made 17 different transcriptions of on-the-spot descriptions of timely topics related to the job of the folks on the land. Our first effort was in cooperation with WHP, Harrisburg, when James F. Keim, assistant State club leader, took charge of the weighing up and earmarking of pigs to be used by a 4-H pig club member in a pork-production project. This was rather successful, but it was apparent that script should be written in advance for the entire recording.

The next attempt was with the same station, and this time the event was the cooperative wool pool serving Cumberland, Dauphin, and Perry Counties. W. B. Connell, livestock extension specialist, and the county agents of the three counties, as well as officers of the pool, developed the story of this service. The sound truck and all equipment were taken right to the railroad siding, where the producers' wools were received and graded by the wool growers' organization. The announcer, working from a prepared script, interviewed all parties concerned in the process. Thus

were emphasized all the phases of production so necessary to observe if the producer is to receive a good price for his wool crop. Of course, from the consumer's viewpoint the importance of the wool crop to the Nation was pointed out and his interest in its being properly produced, graded, and marketed.

Later, in advance of the home-canning season, a canning demonstration conducted by Ada Beegle, the home-economics extension representative in Cumberland County, was transcribed. This was worked out in four episodes entitled, "Checking up on canning equipment," "The pressure cooker and its operation," "Canning by the hot-water-bath method," and "A summary of good canning practices." Such important points as the canning budget, preventing food spoilage, and the necessity for canning high-quality vegetables were worked into the script. WHP presented these episodes on four different days on the station's early-morning farm hour, and a few weeks later used them again.

More recently, Keim spent an entire day with the KDKA sound-truck and recording equipment, manned by personnel from the station, in making transcriptions in Westmoreland County. Here was repeated the work on canning which was adapted, with the help of Lydia Tarrant, extension nutritionist, to the situation where the 4-H Club girls help their mothers to can the winter's food supply. Transcriptions also were made on capon production by 4-H Club members, the experiences of a 4-H Club boy in producing honey, and 4-H carries on from father to son. The

## Grain-Shocking Parties

Farmers are having trouble aplenty getting labor this summer, but the way Walworth County, Wis., businessmen cooperated on grain shocking may suggest a solution for other farmers.

Walworth's labor-salvage program started in Elkhorn late in July, when County Agent James Beattie's office received calls for help from farmers who were unable to get grain shockers. The county agent reached seven Elkhorn businessmen and suggested that a "grain-shocking party" be organized, and that evening the men cleaned up a 15-acre field of barley.

The next day the program was extended, and 30 volunteers signed up for grain field work. Soon the number of "city farmers" was up to 65, and finally to 205—the largest total of the season. As many as 10 grain fields were shocked in a single night when the crews were working at full speed.

The plan was not confined to Elkhorn but spread to other parts of the county. However, in Elkhorn alone merchants, dentists, doctors, the county judge and register of deeds, and other businessmen contributed 1,500 man-hours of work and shocked 1,500 acres of grain.

Mobilization of labor kept two telephones busy all during the grain season, but County Agent Beattie reports that because of the cooperation of community businessmen "the problem of getting labor for shocking just never did materialize."

FIRE-RESISTANT CLOTHING is featured in a new California circular written by Ethelwyn Dodson, clothing specialist.



# Cut toll of meat and leather

■ A national campaign to control the cattle grub is getting under way. This is the grub that takes a 10-percent toll from meat and leather every year. Meat is in the news today because it is scarce and is essential to win the war. With this year's record supply, 10 percent more is still needed. It takes more meat to feed our soldiers, sailors, and marines—more meat for hard workers in the war factories—more meat for hard-pressed allies. The 10-percent goal must be met under tight labor conditions and in spite of more than ordinary difficulties.

The grubs' toll from meat could make up the extra quota for next year. This meat can be reclaimed if all agents make a concerted and serious effort to control the grubs during the next few months when they can be found on the backs of the cattle.

Leather, too, is of great military importance; and the increased demand has made us look to the supplies. Grubs put holes in the best part of the hide and ruin it for sole leather and other uses which need good leather.

Reports from the biggest packing plants show that 35 percent of all cattle slaughtered in the United States are classed as grubby. One packing house in Kansas City found that nearly 62 percent of all animals slaughtered during 6 months of the year were grubby. Grubs are found in every State, and farmers often recognize them without comprehending the full extent of the loss in meat, milk, and leather.

Sometimes they do not connect the grub with the heel fly which runs the meat off the cattle in the spring. Young larvae from the eggs of the heel fly migrate through the vital organs for 9 months, continuing the damage and loss. Finally coming to the back of the animal, it perforates the skin and is in a stage when it can be found and killed. Beginning in November in the South—a little later in the North—and extending for several months, the season is ripe for killing the pest by dusting or washing the backs of the cattle with a good stiff brush and derris or cube or by using a power spray—the orchard spray can be used—to force the poison into the grub holes on the backs of the cattle.

Many counties have made a good start on the campaign; for example, the east Texas county of Anderson which in the past two seasons has become distinctly grub conscious. In November 1940, Cameron Siddall, extension entomologist, and A. L. Smith, animal husbandman for the State Extension Service, accompanied Dr. E. W. Laake, of the U. S. D. A., an authority on the cattle grub, to Anderson County to discuss control methods with County Agricultural Agent D. R. Carpenter. Anderson is a county of small farms, where livestock has been on the increase in

the past 10 years. Grubs were common there—practically every herd had some infestation. Dr. Laake went back to the county to demonstrate control methods. The first year, 31 community demonstrations were held, using one or more herds at each demonstration.

The 700 4-H Club boys heard the story from the county agent and absorbed his enthusiasm. Fifteen 4-H Club teams were trained and, wherever they could arrange a demonstration, they went to work energetically, scrubbing the backs of both dairy and beef cattle. Twelve hundred cattle were treated. "In spite of all we could do, some adults learned how to treat for cattle grub," said Mr. Carpenter. At first, getting control materials was difficult, but the agent arranged with six storekeepers throughout the county to carry the necessary ingredients. Merchants offered prizes to the best team in their community, and the best team in the county put on a demonstration during the farmers' short course. Newspapers were glad to carry articles about the treatment and to announce when and where demonstrations were being held.

## Demonstration Teams Trained

Last season, the dry method of dusting derris powder or cube on the backs of the cattle was used. The demonstrators and the farmers soon could mix the powder without getting too much up their noses and in their eyes. They liked this method. A demonstration team was trained in each of the 25 community clubs and about 40 demonstrations were held. The boys learned to give a realistic picture of the heel fly and how it became a grub and journeyed through the cattle, causing damage all the way and winding up on the backs where they could be found and killed.

The information in department bulletins was used; but, as the agent said, "the average farmer was too busy to read, so in addition to the demonstrations we worked out a simple card. In just 106 words we told the story." Two thousand of these cards were given out, and then another was made up which announced a local demonstration but still told the story of the treatment.

In organizing the work, the agent saw to it that the 4-H Club boys worked on the herd of a leading farmer in the community and that interested businessmen, as well as leading farmers knew about and attended some of the meetings and demonstrations. All agricultural workers—vocational teachers, SCS technicians, FSA supervisors, and others were personally invited to attend and sometimes were escorted to one or more of the demonstrations.

The best results followed a meeting in the

schoolhouse with a nearby herd used for the demonstration immediately afterward. Experience proved that about 20 to 25 holes in the dusting can—about one-fourth inch in diameter—allowed the farmer to apply the dust to the backs of the cattle without dusting it all over himself as well.

"We thought we were keeping pretty close track of the cattle treated," writes Mr. Carpenter, "and figured it at 3,000 head; but just today a man told me how good the treatment had been for his herd, and I know they were not in the report at all." Many more were treated than in the previous season. One 11-year-old boy put on 6 demonstrations; another pair of boys treated 1,000 head. Wherever possible, a record was kept of the animals treated so that the owner could be notified when the next treatment date was due.

This season 1 farmer and 2 boys have been selected from 44 neighborhoods in the county, who agree to demonstrate the treatment to all the rest of the folk in the neighborhood. The demonstrations will be announced by card and letter from the extension office, but the boys will do the work and the lecturing. Mr. Carpenter says: "I have tried it out and know this works better than when I do all the talking." Two boys put on two demonstrations on the streets of Elkhart during a recent poultry show. The demonstration is an attraction at fairs and livestock field days. They even work to advantage in seasons when the grub is not on the backs of the cattle, for the boys like to paint a horrible word picture of what the grubs look like and the damage they do.

If enough agents will follow the leadership of Mr. Carpenter, the cattle grubs' toll can be eliminated in 1943.

## 4-H Achievement Week

4-H Clubs throughout the Nation are celebrating National 4-H Achievement Week November 7 to 14. Meetings, exhibits, and tours, are held, and recognition is given to work well done in rural communities everywhere. A national broadcast, November 7, starts the achievement week rolling, and it is wound up nationally by another broadcast on November 14. In his message to the 1,500,000 club members, Secretary Wickard said in part: "In a time of stress, you have helped substantially in enlarging the Nation's food and fiber supply and in storing and preserving food . . . All these contributions lead us to expect still larger things from you in 1943 . . . You can do your part by producing and preserving food, taking part in salvage campaigns, helping on the farm and in the home, keeping well and strong, continuing your education, studying the meaning and significance of democracy, and purchasing war stamps and bonds. In all this work, we want you to know that you are a definite part of your government's organization for helping to win the war and establishing a lasting peace."



# Midwest youth fight on farm front

**Rural youth in the farm belt undertake important war tasks, reported by J. Allan Beegle and Robert C. Clark of the Rural Youth Department, Iowa Extension Service.**

■ Yes, our boys in military service do have an army behind them—an army of patriotic, energetic youth on the home front. This army of rural young men and women is using its vitality and enthusiasm to battle the Axis at home on the farm.

In the Middle West, young people are buckling down to the gigantic task of doing everything they can to win the war, and their efforts run the entire gamut of home-front war activities. Many of the jobs to be done are tasks made to order for youth, such as repairing machinery, fire protection, and salvaging scarce materials.

But young people are doing much more.

Much of the extra labor and added work required to produce more food is falling upon the shoulders of young people. This group in the Middle West is taking on much of the added responsibility after the hired man or brother leaves for the Army defense industry.

Four young men in the Kingsville, Mo., rural-youth organization have done an outstanding job in the conservation planning of more than 2,000 acres on their own and neighborhood farms. Oren Currie and Charles Struebin are farm operators, Jack Roberts farms with his father, and L. C. Eldredge owns a farm and works with his father. To increase production more efficiently, these young men have replanted their farms, planted their crops on the contour, built terraces, and rearranged their fields and fences to conform with land slope.

To stimulate increased production of soybeans, a much-needed crop, the Junior Farm Bureau of Warren County, Iowa, is sponsoring a county-wide soybean-yield contest. Prizes will be awarded to farmers with highest yields.

Many young people in Minnesota are helping to increase livestock production through the "farm-family partnership," plan encouraged by the Extension Service. Floyd Villeneuve, a member of the Aitkin County rural-youth group, is raising sheep in the northern cut-over section of Minnesota. Floyd struck a deal with his father and mother and purchased, on a partnership basis, 11 purebred ewes and a Shropshire ram. Because their 120-acre farm was already supporting as much livestock as it could handle, Floyd took an option on some wild land "across the creek." He is now well along toward making some money, and at the same time his increased livestock production is helping to fight the Axis.

Goodhue County, Minn., rural-youth mem-

bers attacked the food-production problem from an unusual angle. They have staged a full-grown blitzkrieg on the gophers that are destroying crops and causing serious soil erosion on the steep slopes. First, they studied effective control measures, and then 24 of the members staged 43 demonstrations, 2 in each township. Eight hundred and ten farmers attended the demonstration "blitz," taught by young people.

The Illinois Extension Service is placing special emphasis upon the help young people can give their families in growing bigger and better gardens. Twenty-four members of the McDonough County group have planted Victory Gardens for their family needs. However, this is merely a means to an end, for the important thing is to encourage these young people to can or store sufficient fruits and vegetables to fill the needs of their family more completely.

It is inevitable that our all-out plane and tank production leaves little room for the output of farm machinery. This means that we are going to have to do a lot of repair work to add a few years to the life of our farm implements. Young people are doing much of the machinery repair work.

The Marshall County Junior Farm Bureau in Iowa, for instance, with the help of other agencies, sponsored a county-wide machinery-repair school. The committee in charge of arranging the school consisted of Jessie Knudsen, Otis Wheat, and Jean Holroyd, together with James Foster, the president of the group. The school, conducted in two sessions by an extension specialist, consisted of illustrated lectures and demonstrations on the care and management of farm machinery.

**Sadie Campbell, Wichita rural youth member, teaches country school in the winter and helps to produce more food on her father's farm in the summer.**



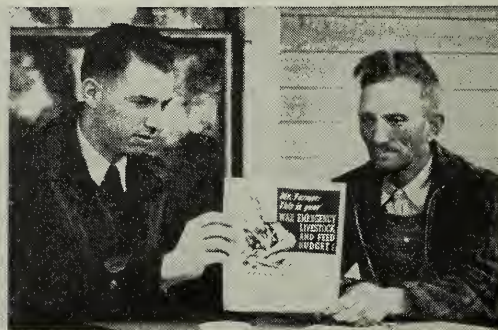
To a large extent, young people have shouldered the job of salvaging scarce materials. The originality of some groups in doing this job is indicated by the "junk Decatur's junk" campaign organized by the Decatur County Rural Youth Club in Indiana. According to Mary Jo Scheidler, secretary of the group, the committee set the county goal at 121 tons, assigned the responsibility of collecting junk to persons in every community, and obtained the cooperation of the Greensburg Chamber of Commerce to induce merchants to offer "specialists" as an added inducement for farmers to bring scrap iron to town.

Young people are doing their part in civilian defense. The Wayne County, Iowa, rural young people's group sponsored a county-wide first-aid class in which 56 persons enrolled. Bob Coulter, chairman of the first-aid classes, is now a member of the county first-aid committee appointed by the defense council.

Young people everywhere are purchasing bonds and stamps, but the ingenious methods youth groups use to stimulate buying are interesting. In the Iowa County, Iowa, rural young-people's group, each member contributes a dime for each battleship or cruiser sunk, a nickel for each troop transport or large Navy auxiliary vessel, and a penny for each "sub" or torpedo boat. In fact, at the present time, more than 25 young people's groups in Iowa are competing in a bond-and-stamp purchasing campaign.

Rural young people in many States are emphasizing good health and nutrition as a contribution to winning the war. The Benton County, Iowa, Junior Farm Bureau, for example, outlined a health program consisting of talks and group discussions on health, as well as a group physical examination. Much of the work young people have been doing on health in Iowa is done through study and educational features at meetings. Iowa groups are opening their meetings with a roll call on good health habits and using an extension-prepared quiz entitled "Dr. R. Y. P. on Health."

**Charles Stillman, left, of [Palo Alto County, Iowa, served as educational cooperator and talked over the food-and-feed budget with his neighbor Fred Quam. Charles is now in the armed forces.**





Thirty-two members of the rural young people of Lyon County, Minn., have taken the "Mantoux test" for tuberculosis and are working on a county-wide health-improvement plan, including an "area vaccination" for smallpox, as Minnesota has no compulsory vaccination law. Three members of the group are qualified first-aid instructors and are conducting demonstrations throughout Lyon County.

In the art of morale building, young people are "past masters." Again, in this war they are doing many things to improve community morale, as well as to help maintain morale among the armed forces.

## Pullet camps push production

■ The summer of 1942 saw a record number of range shelters for pullets go into use on Missouri farms. So widespread has become the use of these shelters that no longer will any self-respecting, patriotic pullet consider going through the summer without spending the hot weeks in one of these camp arrangements in order to get in condition to do her part in the food-production program.

The old tried and true system of setting up demonstrations has been followed by the Extension Service in egging on the program. However, something new was added in the form of victory exhibits. But let's back up a little before going ahead.

The summer camps consist of movable, well-ventilated range shelters located on a clean, uncontaminated area—preferably some kind of pasture—over which the pullets can roam. The shelter consists of a solid roof over roosting poles with wire netting on all four sides. It usually is located at least 200 yards away from the old poultry yards, depending on how far the owner has to go to find ground over which no chickens have ranged in recent years. No poultry fencing encloses the range, as the pullets make the shelter their central headquarters and return there to feed and roost. Large feeders and waterers near the shelters make unnecessary more than one trip a day by the poultry raiser.

Only a few years old is this plan of taking the pullets, when they are about 6 to 10 weeks of age, out of the brooder house and away from the old poultry yards so that they can develop faster and better on uncontaminated ground and in a ventilated range shelter. The birds are kept there until they are moved to laying houses, usually early in the fall.

County extension agents and Extension Specialist C. E. Rohde have aided a number of farm families in building shelters to demonstrate the value of summer camps. The shelters have proved relatively simple and inexpensive to build, the average farmer being able to construct one by following the plans

The Marion County Rural-Youth Club in Indiana recently held a dance for 40 soldiers from Fort Benjamin Harrison. Through the cooperation of the USO, Evelyn Long, chairman of the committee, arranged for the dance to be held in the Christian Park Community House. The favorite "juke" box provided rhythm for social and square dancing. Sandwiches were served by the youth club.

Many young people's groups are conducting an organized letter-writing campaign. According to Margaret Hammel, Randolph County, Ill., the members of that group wrote "wallpaper" letters to five former members now in the armed forces.

in the Missouri College of Agriculture circular entitled "The Missouri Summer Range Shelter." As a variety of materials can be utilized in construction of the shelters, farmers use what they have at hand, frequently holding the cash cost down to a few dollars. Once a demonstration is set up, neighbors see its value and copy the plan.

Lumberyards of the State have aided the program by building sample range shelters and by providing material cut to the right size so that little sawing is required to erect such a structure.

During several county-wide meetings held for poultry raisers this past winter and early spring, one or more of these range shelters were displayed on courthouse lawns. In some counties, lumberyard owners cooperated in making a complete Victory Poultry Equipment Exhibit of home-made supplies, including brooders, waterers, and feeders, in addition to the shelters.

Last spring saw the development by the Missouri College of Agriculture of an offshoot of the range shelter. It is called The Combination Brooder and Range Shelter for the Family Poultry Flock. Despite its long name, it gained immediate popularity with families raising 50 to 75 chickens, and with 4-H Club members, who used it in carrying on their poultry project. In some cases, two or more of these brooder-shelters were used by larger operators. So cheap was the heating of the brooder that many operators reported fuel costs to be less than 50 cents a brood.

Mr. Rohde believes that use of a summer range shelter increases the annual net income of poultry raisers by 40 cents a pullet, or an average of \$40 to \$50 a year per flock. Each shelter should be good for 10 years, so a \$400 to \$500 net increase can be expected from the use of such a shelter.

The Missouri Extension Service is convinced that such shelters have played an important part in developing the hens that have pushed the State up to fourth place among all States in egg production.

## Storing Mississippi Vegetables

Food is being produced in unprecedented quantities by farm people throughout the Nation. The spirit of willingness to work has never been higher among farm people, and this spirit has produced more food than storage facilities can handle. To show farm people how to store this food successfully at little expense was the purpose of a series of demonstrations in Mississippi. These demonstrations were supervised by county agents, home demonstration agents, and specialists in horticulture, agricultural engineering, and food preservation.

Sixteen demonstrations were held throughout Mississippi during the summer and fall to give county agents and home agents training in the construction and use of a vegetable storage pit made of native material. This series of demonstrations was arranged by the district agents and specialists in horticulture, agricultural engineering, and food preservation. Farm sites for the storage pits were selected in July and August by county agents and specialists in 16 counties. The locations were staked and a bill of materials explained to the farmer and agent. When the preliminary preparations were completed and the hole dug, a date was set; and the agents in counties adjacent to the county having the demonstration were notified of the date of demonstration. The county and home agent, with a few interested leaders from 3 to 5 counties, attended the demonstration where the storage pit was built by farmers, agents, and specialists. During the day, demonstrations were given on construction details, food preservation, and storage of root crops, with special emphasis on agent training.

Three types of pit were recommended—a pole pit, a concrete pit, and a cellar under the house. The pole pit is built into a hillside and has all framework constructed of 6- to 8-inch cured cedar, cypress, or hardwood poles. No material essential to the war is used in this construction work. These pits are built 6½ feet deep and have 8 by 10 feet of floor space. They are covered with thick hardwood slabs or rough-sawn boards, tar paper, and at least 14 inches of soil. Drainage is provided by 4 inches of gravel or cinders on the floor of the pit and a gradual slope from back of pit, across floor and out the entrance way that opens on side of slope. Good ventilation is another important feature in the plan and is obtained by the use of an 8- by 8-inch screened ventilator in the top and an adjustable opening in the double entrance door. These pits are ideal for the storage of Irish potatoes; sweetpotatoes; root crops, as turnips, carrots, beets, and rutabagas; cabbage; Chinese cabbage; cushaws; apples and pears; canned goods; vinegar and lard. Farmers with poultry flocks find them useful for holding eggs in good condition for a few days until they can accumulate a sufficient quantity for market.—R. O. Monosmith, extension horticulturist, Mississippi.



# A community food arsenal

JENNIE E. COLEMAN, Home Demonstration Agent, Laurens County, South Carolina

■ Under the sponsorship of the Barksdale-Narnie Home Demonstration Club, of which Mrs. M. C. Waldrop is the demonstration local leader, the harvesting, conserving, and storing of the products of the Victory Garden in this community were completed. This Victory Garden was begun with the idea of establishing a community food arsenal for emergency, should the need arise, and, in any case, producing a part of the supply for the school-lunch project in the community.

With the help of the WPA school-lunch supervisor and workers, the donations and help of the home demonstration club members and other citizens of the community, 5 acres were planted to such vegetables as tomatoes, okra, string beans, cabbage, carrots, butter beans, and peas. From these vegetables, more than 3,000 quarts of such things as tomatoes, tomato juice, soup mixture, green beans, and kraut have been canned. Two acres were planted in Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and corn. From this, 35 bushels of Irish potatoes were gathered and stored. Equal amounts of sweet-

potatoes are expected to be harvested shortly, and that these will be stored in a potato-curing house to be drawn upon as needed. The corn will supply enough meal and grits to feed the school children; the surplus will be sold and the proceeds used to purchase other items needed to balance the food supply. Dried peas and butter beans are being gathered at present. They will be treated for weevils and stored in suitable containers.

To continue the food supply through the fall, turnips, greens, and carrots were planted. Late tomatoes bore until frost and then were stored to furnish slicing tomatoes until late in the season.

Plans were made to can a beef late in the fall and, in the early winter, to butcher a hog, parts of which will be cured and parts canned.

The school lunchroom began operation again this fall and draws from this food supply as needed. At the same time, other items will be added to the store, thus helping to keep the arsenal up to standard.

## Seeds that grew

Mrs. Edna Campbell Richardson, formerly Home Demonstration Agent, Lancaster County, South Carolina

■ Many are the days that pass when remarks like these may be heard on the streets and in the stores of Lancaster: "There are more gardens than ever before in Lancaster County"; then, "I believe more people are canning this year"; and later, "Our poor people seem to be making more effort to produce and conserve food than in years past."

The fact that people of the poorer class are making a more desperate effort to live at home is due to the fact that someone found a way to help them. When the Lancaster County Civilian Defense Organization began making plans for war work, they placed great interest in the food problem of the county. The chairman of the civilian defense organization, Mrs. Ben C. Hough, Jr., served on a committee with the farm and home agents to use \$100 donated by the OCD to buy garden seeds for the low-income group of people in Lancaster County.

Packages of seeds, containing enough for a family of 5 for 1 year, were purchased for 30 communities in the county. Found in these packages were turnips, cabbage, collards, English peas, black-eyed peas, tomato, and bean seeds.

The committee asked the home demonstra-

tion clubs to distribute the seeds to deserving families in their communities. As there are only 18 of these communities having home demonstration clubs, the missionary societies assisted in the distribution. Each community was given 4 packages of seed for their families. Negro people received part of the seeds and white people the remainder. Approximately 125 families received these seeds.

It was most interesting to observe how much time and attention members of the clubs and societies gave to the garden work among the low-income groups in their respective communities. At each club meeting, members told of the garden work they had seen among those people receiving the seeds.

Some of the neighborhood leaders helped the families with their seeds and garden work. Mrs. Howard Jordan said: "Yesterday I took my pressure cooker with me to Mrs. Threatt's house, and we canned fruits most of the day." Mrs. Threatt did not have a pressure cooker, and the help Mrs. Jordan gave her was most worth while.

Leaders' reports show that the families canned about one-third more than they canned last year. If this quantity can be increased from year to year, it is believed that the low-income group will be a better-fed group.

Some of the people receiving the seeds have saved some of them in order that seeds may be passed on to other deserving people next year. Tomato, turnip, bean, and English pea seeds have been saved. If each community saves enough seeds for one other family in its community, this will be a big help.

The people serving as chairmen and directors of this work feel that it has been a very worth-while piece of work. They are greatly indebted to the OCD of Lancaster for the splendid cooperation it has given.

## In the Army Now

"I've bumped into many 4-H Club boys in the Air Corps. Interesting how I happened to find out that they were club members. I was train commander on a 10-car troop train taking some 400 trainees to a field up in Georgia not long ago, and as I stood on the back platform with one of my corporals he made some remark about a herd of Jerseys that was pasturing near the tracks, an unusual sight down here. I followed it up and found that he was a club boy from west Texas and that he had several Jerseys of his own and also a flock of Leghorns as his official project. The radio operator on another train was a club boy from Montana with some 25 Hereford cows as his project on his dad's 7,000-acre ranch. The driver of a jeep who took me for a couple of inspection rides the other night when I was officer of the day was a club member from Mississippi. He had 3 acres of some special kind of cotton. So it goes.

"May it be said to the credit of all club members I have met and most boys from farms, that they are above the average enlisted men in the Army, and it's not long before they have a 'noncom' rating."—*Excerpt from a letter to the officers and directors of the Ohio County Extension Agents' Association by Capt. William S. Barnhart (Pancoast Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla.), formerly county agricultural agent of Muskingum County, Ohio.*

## Freezer Lockers

Seven hundred additional frozen-food locker plants for storing locally grown food were opened during the year ended July 1942. This brings the total of Extension's fifth annual count to 4,323 plants in 46 States. The greatest current growth was in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, with more rapid development appearing in the Northeast.

The locker industry is storing perishable foods at the rate of better than 600 million pounds a year for more than 1 million families, three-fourths of whom are farmers. Capacity business is reported from almost all sections of the country.

All the States report that these locker plants are serving as additional local outlets for information on wartime food-production and nutrition programs.



# Community gardens yield bountifully

H. D. BROWN, Professor of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Ohio State University

■ Victory Gardens yielded a bountiful crop in Ohio in 1942. This is especially true of supervised gardens. It is estimated that 3,700 acres of land were used by 29,000 families for growing vegetables on this plan in Ohio in 1942. This, added to an estimated 51,000 school gardens, 220,000 farm gardens, and 286,000 additional private Victory Gardens, gives the State an impressive figure of 586,000 Victory Gardens for 1942.

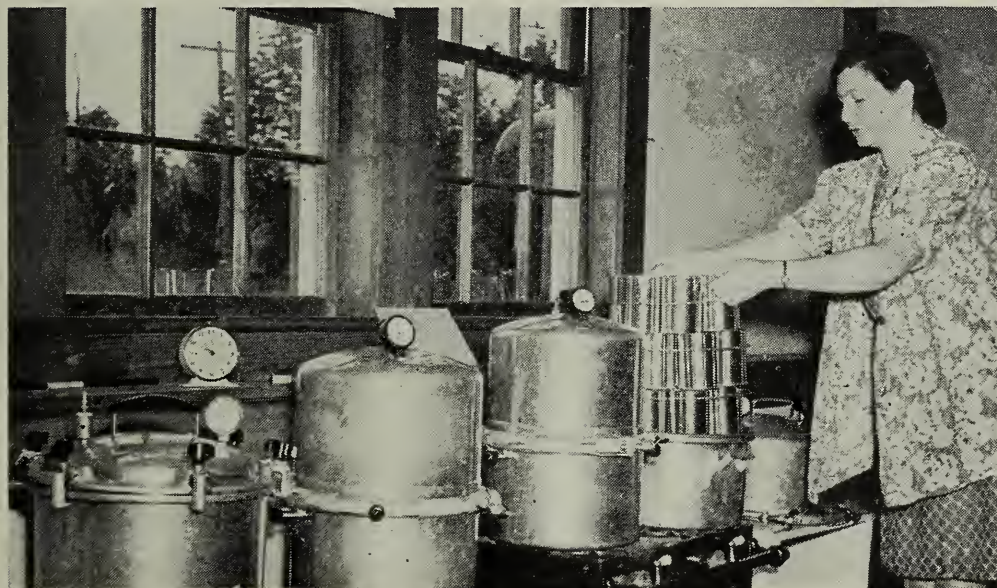
In Franklin County, 1,250 families planted 150 acres to supervised community gardens. Edward Clime, a vegetable grower who has supervised these gardens for 9 years, states that yields this season exceeded those for any previous season. He estimates that these community gardens in Franklin County

yielded 10,000 bushels of tomatoes, 30,000 dozen ears of sweet corn, 4,500 bushels of beans, 750 tons of cabbage, 1,800 bushels of carrots, 1,800 bushels of turnips, 150 tons of leafy vegetables, as well as many miscellaneous vegetables in 1942.

Community canning centers were located at the Godman Guild and the Urban League.

Mr. Clime's salary for the summer months is paid by the Columbus and Franklin County Community Fund. The land is donated by private individuals and commercial firms. Application for garden plots is made through the Godman Guild, the Gladden Community House, the Urban League, the South Side Y. M. C. A., and the Salvation Army, all of which cooperate in this project.

## Bay State is canning-conscious



Brookline cannery, promoted and operated by the Chestnut Hill, Mass., Garden Club.

■ Massachusetts homemakers are canning-conscious and this winter will have millions of jars of vegetables and fruits stored away in canning closets to help cut down the high cost of living and to improve family diets. William R. Cole, home canning authority of the Massachusetts Extension Service, says that not only are farm women canning-conscious but that city women likewise realize the values received from putting away fruits and vegetables for winter use.

Brookline, Mass., a town that has the reputation of being the home town of the elite from Boston, had a canning center which this

year put up more than 12,000 jars. Some homemakers brought their products and did their own canning. Others sent in orders for so many jars. In that case, the supervisor bought the products and charged enough to include the cost of such items as jars and labor. Labor was hired or donated. All work was done under the direction of supervisors trained at a special school by the State Extension Service.

Cambridge likewise had a canning center where homemakers came to can products for the winter. In the city of Boston, 27 special demonstrations and lectures were given by

State College workers on home canning and the value of home-canned products in the diet. More than 1,100 homemakers attended these demonstrations. In West Springfield, a canning center was maintained where homemakers could bring products and do their home canning or could bring products and pay attendants for the canning. In Richmond, which is a rural community, another home-canning center was maintained where more than 8,000 glass jars or tin cans were filled.

Eleven municipalities cooperated with the WPA in operating canneries, producing material for the school lunch project.

During the summer and fall, approximately 1,500 canning meetings were held in Massachusetts. Cooperating on the home-canning program were the Massachusetts State Extension Service, the county Extension Services, the Civilian Defense, the Red Cross, and numerous other groups. In the canning meetings conducted in the city or rural communities, the demonstrators used garden products in advance of the season so that the homemakers could do their canning while products were plentiful and easily obtained.

Mr. Cole also reports that 1,800 homemakers throughout the State have been given special training in food-preservation work and are on call at any time to women in their neighborhood for advice or printed information on food-preservation problems.

## Editor Visits Negro Movable School

Stanley High, one of the editors of Reader's Digest, traveled with the Booker T. Washington Agricultural School on Wheels during the week of August 4. In addition, Nicholas Kollock, Alabama agent for Negro extension work, took Mr. High on a 500-mile itinerary over the State to visit remote Negro farmers who had taken part in the movable school in the past few years. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, the school reached 579 men, women, girls, and boys from 240 Negro farm families in Perry County, Ala., that week. Demonstrations were given to 323 women and girls in food selection and preparation, house furnishing, poultry, gardening, health and sanitation, and food preservation by the movable school agent, Mrs. B. T. Pompey; the nurse, Miss J. L. Dent; and the Perry County home agent, Sara L. Wright. To the 256 men and boys, demonstrations were given in banking sweetpotatoes, selection and care of the family dairy cow, cutting and building steps, and making screens for doors and windows, by R. R. Bell, movable-school agent, and Lawrence C. Johnson, Perry County farm agent.

OHIO FARM FRONT FACTS is the title of a publication put out by the State Extension staff to keep the agents up to date on wartime progress.



# Kansas gardens multiply when all agencies work to common end

■ Kansas aimed at a 35-percent increase in the number of farm gardens in 1942, when the State Victory Garden campaign was launched. Recent reports show that the number of gardens planted in the State this year was actually about 60 percent above the 1941 figure, and that most of the gardens planted by habitual vegetable growers were larger and more varied than usual.

Favorable weather must be given part of the credit for this accomplishment. But the lion's share of the honor is due to the method of organizing the campaign which united the efforts of a wide variety of public and private agencies in a concerted drive for more gardens. The approach proved so successful that a somewhat similar system probably will be used in 1943.

The hopoff for the Kansas campaign was a State-wide Victory Garden conference called by the Governor of the State and held in the Hall of Representatives in the State Capitol building on January 12. At the request of the Governor, Director H. J. C. Umberger of the Kansas Extension Service served as chairman. His first step in convening the conference was the appointment of four committees. One was assigned the responsibility for organizing the farm-garden campaign and subject matter and was headed by the extension horticulturist and the State home demonstration leader. The second was charged with development of school and community gardens, with the State director of vocational education as chairman. A publicity committee was appointed, with the extension editor as chairman. And a fourth committee, under the direction of the secretary of the State board of agriculture, worked on the campaign budget and the problem of seed, fertilizer, and insecticide supplies.

A large number of agencies and institutions participated in the conference. Included were the AAA, WPA, NYA, SMA, FSA, BAE, FCA, FSCC, SCS, the United States Employment Service, Forest Service, and the Kansas USDA War Board—all connected with the Federal Government. In addition, there were parent-teacher association representatives; ornamental-horticulture representatives; officers of the State agricultural-planning committee; members of the State nutrition committee; officials of the State board of agriculture; a regional Boy Scout executive; representatives of the forestry, fish, and game commission; staff members in agriculture, home economics, home-economics education, and horticulture from Kansas State College; garden-club representatives; nurserymen; fruit growers; seed dealers; bankers; members of the State industrial commission;

chamber of commerce representatives; teachers' association members; social-welfare workers; representatives of the State department of public instruction; vocational agriculture and vocational education executives; and staff members from 11 newspapers and 6 radio stations.

The entire group heard an address by the Governor which was broadcast to the State, listened to reports of the National Defense Gardening Conference, and then went to work in committee sessions to draft the Kansas campaign.

That campaign started off with district meetings attended by county agents and local representatives of the various agencies interested in the movement. This was followed by county conferences, where the plan for the county campaign was definitely drawn and the responsibilities divided among the organizations concerned.

A basic feature of every county plan was a house-to-house canvass of all farm neighborhoods, conducted by selected local leaders. These leaders were the forerunners of the later-developed neighborhood-leader system for all wartime extension programs.

## Families Sign Pledge Cards

The neighborhood-garden leaders were provided with ammunition in the form of pledge cards for families to sign, indicating their intention to produce a Victory Garden in 1942; wall placards, printed in red, white, and blue, which were given to those families signing pledge cards; and printed folders containing a family garden budget for good nutrition and also giving technical suggestions on vegetable varieties, rate and date of planting, and similar information. Each family growing the garden, in accordance with its pledge, received a certificate of appreciation signed by the Governor. All this printed material was financed by the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and the Kansas Industrial Commission.

A State-wide program of demonstrations on food preservation and storage was arranged by the extension home economists to promote the most effective use of abundant vegetables. Home demonstration agents conducted public canning demonstrations in their counties, and emergency nutritionists were employed to handle the work in the remainder of the State. Women neighborhood leaders were especially urged to attend the demonstrations to get first-hand information. A series of six circulars was printed by the Extension Service to provide reference notes for these leaders and others. Included in the

series were pamphlets on canning, freezing, brining, drying, and storage. Sixty thousand copies of each pamphlet were distributed.

A constant campaign of newspaper and radio publicity was carried on throughout the entire gardening and canning season. Articles were prepared each week by members of the college horticulture-department staff and by extension horticulturists. Some of these were sent to all the 500 weekly newspapers in the State as part of the weekly extension news service; others were sent to county agricultural agents for localization and adaptation and were turned over to the newspapers by the agents; and still others were used on KSAC, the college radio station, and syndicated in a manuscript service to 29 cooperating commercial radio stations. Three or four articles a week were prepared, beginning in February and continuing almost without interruption until fall. Every release distributed carried a symbol—the words "Victory Gardens" surrounded by asterisks—at the top indicating its connection with the garden program. Newspaper editors also were supplied with a one-column mat of the Kansas Victory Garden symbol to be used as a heading for a weekly garden column.

The campaign got results. The number of Kansas farm gardens jumped from 85,000 in 1941 to approximately 140,000 in 1942. Most of the gardens were larger than in past years; and there was an encouraging increase in the use of windbreaks, tile irrigation, and other "insurance" practices.

Definite data on the results are being obtained by means of personal interviews with farm families in every section of the State and by means of a questionnaire mailed to a few of the regular listeners of Radio Station KSAC.

The personal interviews were handled by emergency nutritionists, and the families interviewed were selected on an impartial spot-check basis. Interviews were made in 1 county in each of the State's 15 type-of-farming areas. From 1 to 3 townships in the county were involved. All farm families were listed alphabetically, and the third, thirteenth, twenty-third, etc., families were visited. Questions asked pertained to the family garden, the amount of food canned and stored, and the extent of other home food production, including meat and milk. The same questionnaire was used in the mail survey.

The tabulation of results has not been completed, but it is evident that there are more gardens and larger gardens than usual this year, and there is a greater variety of vegetables in those gardens. The nutrition score of the average family should be higher than in other recent years.

But not every Kansas farm had a garden; and not every garden was as large or as well-managed as it should have been; so Kansas plans to do the job in a bigger and better fashion in 1943.



# Tennessee maps new garden frontiers

## Victory gardens concentrate effort where food production is practical and where the need is great

W. C. PELTON, Extension Horticulturist, Tennessee

■ In such times as these, the Extension Service needs to reach more people and so plan their efforts that the contact is effective and vital. In the Tennessee Victory Garden program, we are doing this by systematically canvassing specific groups where we know that food production is practical and are gaging our program to their interests and capabilities.

One such opportunity seemed to be with families on relief rolls. A new approach was devised by Commissioner Paul Savage of the State Department of Public Welfare. Querying the 50,000 persons on the rolls, he found that many had space for gardens and would be glad to plant any seed sent to them. Many others reported that they already had seed, which they promised to plant. With the information obtained as a guide, 15,727 families were sent seed money, ranging from 25 cents to \$1, with their April checks.

The Extension Service prepared a leaflet on gardening especially for them. It has a form for a production record; and many of the people, if not all, have kept records which will show the value of this direct assistance in food production.

Typical of the attitude of many of these people is that of an old-age pensioner who wrote: "I am not able to get around except on my hands and knees, but come spring and sunshiny weather I likes to get my hands in the dirt and has my friends take me out to the garden where I drags myself along and plants my seeds. I am proud to do this garden for my country."

One of the improvements in this set-up planned for the coming season is to give the seed money in two installments, one for summer gardens and the other for fall gardens. This would also help families to plant a garden who were put on the welfare rolls after the winter allowance was made.

To enlist the help of younger children in farm homes, the idea to have a Junior Food Army was tried out in Sardis Ridge one-room school with the cooperation of the teacher. The Extension Service provided a muster roll in red, white, and blue, to be signed by the children. Gold stars were placed after the names of those who did creditable work in food production, and all 15 children who signed were given stars. The muster roll will be framed and hung on the schoolhouse wall as a permanent record. All these children are under 4-H Club age. One lad of 4 years insisted on having a garden.

The Sardis Ridge Junior Food Army points to a method of enlisting the help of

the youngest children in family food production. Another method of enlisting the rural elementary school children in wartime food production was worked out in cooperation with the State supervisor of elementary schools, R. Lee Thomas. Two circulars, one on spring gardens and one on fall gardens, were prepared. The latter was written in language easily read by fourth-and-fifth-grade children so that it could be used as lesson and story-writing material in the grades. We are told that fifth-grade language is the kind best suited to a wide range of ages. If this is true, our fall-garden circular for schools may well reach and influence adults who would not use more learned publications.

Another group for which we made special plans were the Negro sharecroppers. Landlords and public workers asked for help in getting these families to use all their opportunities to make gardens. A new circular described a garden in a cotton patch, with the same spacing of rows, cultivation, and similar but more intensive fertilization. This was given wide circulation. With the help of this circular, and a definite plan, extension agents have been able to promote a better understanding of needs and opportunities in food production on cotton farms among both landowners and croppers.

Feeling that implementing a better garden movement was more important than talking and writing about one, we devised the extension seed collections as a tool for implementing better gardens. These collections are planned by the Extension Service but sold by private concerns. The 1942 collection contains six vegetables: Louisiana Danvers carrot, early prolific Straightneck squash, Shogoin turnip, Tendergreen, Chinese cabbage, and Rokusun garden soybean. This collection is of special interest to the home demonstration club garden demonstrators who like to have some clear-cut piece of demonstration work to do. Each item claims either special food value or novelty to add variety to the diet. It also is a definite project in nutrition for home demonstration club members.

Home Demonstration Agent Martha Love of Giles County reports: "Eight hundred and fifty packages of this year's seed collection have been planted. The home demonstration club members distributed the seed in all but 3 communities where local merchants handled them. About 65 packages were given free to worthy families."

Because of the special interest centering round one or another of these 6 vegetables in the 1942 collection, we do not hesitate to con-

sider each of the 10,000 persons who bought the collection as neighborhood demonstrators who will influence a much larger number of people.

Next year, garden soybeans will probably be further emphasized for a number of reasons. Difficulty with bean beetles in common beans argues for more soybeans in the September and October diet. The larger number of home and community flour mills suggest that soybeans might be grown more often for making flour, especially as stored soybeans appear not to suffer from dry-seed insects which are the bane of cereal grains and the common garden beans and cowpeas. Garden soybeans are labor-saving as they are planted in the spring and need only to be cultivated with other crops. They lick the bugbear of shelling green beans. For these reasons, garden soybeans will be prominent in the 1943 Victory Garden plans which are now being formulated.



## Texas Editors Salvage Scrap

When the War Production Board asked engravers and printers to look around and salvage all of their obsolete cuts, the Texas Extension editorial office found that they could dispense with the 1,100 copper and zinc cuts shown in the picture, reports Laura Lane, acting extension editor in Texas, shown at the left.

■ Negro farmers of Lincoln County, Miss., organized a cooperative vegetable-marketing association and in the first 6 months marketed cooperatively 1,505 bushels of vegetables, which netted the members participating a total of \$1,704.72, reports Negro Agent E. A. Rials.



# Who is this neighborhood leader?

Much has been written about the neighborhood-leader system; but, after all is said and done, it is the individual leader that makes the system work. These few brief glimpses of leaders at work in several States indicate just what caliber these men and women are.

## Blind—Does his bit as Minuteman

■ In our present war effort, we are taking every precaution to be certain that all our resources are put to use. We collect scrap rubber and iron; we cut a little more hay and feed another cow; every man, woman, and child able to help is contributing his full share to beat the enemy. The agricultural Minutemen and Minutewomen were organized to further help rural people in their efforts. Now we find that even the blind are helping.

Mrs. Julia Forton of Antwerp has informed us that Clifton Eagon of Antwerp is serving as an agricultural Minuteman even though totally blind. Blackouts make no difference to him, for he gets around to see his charges as easily in dark as in daylight. Perhaps the most satisfactory part of the story is that Mr. Eagon is happy with his responsibility. He feels that he is making a concerted effort and a genuine contribution, and he is. It will be through the cooperation of willing people like Mr. Eagon that we shall finally win the war. We are glad to have him on our side.—*Lucian Freeman, summer assistant county agent, Jefferson County, N. Y.*

## Ask a busy person

"If you want something done, ask the busy person," certainly holds true in the case of Mrs. Clovis Vandermillion, president of the Rye Home Demonstration Club. Mrs. Vandermillion is community Minuteman in her community and, in addition to serving on every activity the wartime has brought about, is serving on the county marketing committee. Rye school had closed when the first sugar rationing (for table use) came up, so the teachers were not available to do the work. Mrs. Vandermillion signed them up at her home. This was followed by the Red Cross drive, the stamp and bond sale, the scrap-iron drive, and the rubber drive. Mrs. Vandermillion was right in on all of it. The community purchased a church out of the camp area, and the club had the wiring for electricity done. Mrs. Vandermillion did the "shopping around" for the supplies.

If the Vandermillions were to have their usual tomato truck crop this year, it was up to Mrs. Vandermillion to care for it as the mines were working and Mr. Vandermillion could not be released and the son was working in town. The first tomatoes on the market were from her patch, and most of her

tomatoes were marketed for 10 cents a pound.—*Ruth Fairbairn, home demonstration agent, north Sebastian County, Ark.*

## A Finnish leader writes to her county agent

DEAR MR. GUNDERSON: Wish to inform you that a neighborhood war club was organized in Comet. It was a nice group, with 20 neighbors present. Leaders were elected—Richard Linn, Mrs. Oscar Jurmu, and myself.

We decided to have meetings once a month. At the next meeting Mr. Linn will explain the President's Seven-Point Program to Prevent Inflation; also other present-day problems will be discussed. We shall try to translate into Finnish for the benefit of the older folks that can't fully understand the English language.

We also talked about organizing 4-H Clubs in Comet. How many children over 10 years must there be before a club can be organized? Some parents thought the distance to the recently organized Jackson 4-H Club was too great for our children.

These neighborhood clubs may have a far-reaching purpose for the future. Comet and Jackson people already know from experience that good results can come from cooperating and working together. For example, we organized Comet and Jackson Lotta Svard group for Finland relief with very good results. The spiritual and educational benefits each received can't be measured with dollars and cents. How many hidden talents we discovered among our neighbors! At first it seemed that the ladies did all the talking and reading, but soon we got our men folks interested too; and surprisingly good speeches were given by our older folks, both men and women, and poems and vocal and musical selections from younger members. After the meeting, coffee was served.

And then, when our own dear country was forced into war, we reorganized, February 1, 1942. Comet and Jackson Lotta Svard group work for the benefit of the American Red Cross War Relief Fund. We continued meetings and programs for the benefit of that fund. We had our last meeting in April when we decided to take summer vacation until September, as all farm folks were busy with summer farm work and gardens.

I am sorry and beg your pardon for taking up your valuable time to read such a long letter, but I have been a chairman of this Comet and Jackson group almost 3 years. To

my own idea this kind of good-deed get-together meeting has more value than we expect, especially in these hard war times. We have need to associate with our neighbors more than ever—to do and plan our best, one and all, for the benefit of our own dear United States of America.—*Mrs. Charles Sippola, neighborhood leader, Wakefield, Mich.*

## Louisiana leaders speak

At a meeting of all the neighborhood leaders in Pointe Coupee Parish, La., the leaders exchanged experiences. One farmer, with 5 or 6 of his own tenant families on his list of 23 farm families, said he took his truck and scales and went to each farm, collecting, weighing, and paying families for all scrap rubber they could find. He then loaded it on his truck and carried all of it to a filling station. Another leader, a tenant farmer with a crippled hand, was next on his feet and told the group that he did not have an automobile or truck, but that God had given him 2 good feet and he had called on all of his 17 families by walking and that they had all responded. Some of the Negro families could not buy more than 10-cent stamps, yet they gave that much willingly and promised to continue to buy.

## Maintaining Home Equipment

Virginia agricultural engineering specialists, together with home-economics specialists, recently held training schools for county professional workers such as FSA, WPA, NYA, vocational agricultural teachers, and home economics teachers, as well as county extension agents, in every county in the State. The maintenance and repair of household equipment was discussed with the workers who attended. Sewing machines were most popular, but care of all equipment was demonstrated. These workers will, in turn, hold maintenance and repair clinics for rural people on a community basis.

■ "Help days" have been arranged during the summer for South Dakota 4-H Club girls who are on demonstration teams. Each county is assigned different days for the club girls to receive help in their demonstration activities.

Many communities are being reached through these 4-H demonstrations of some extension project related to the war program—such projects as food preservation, vegetable storage, dairy foods, health, first aid, and farm and home safety.

■ Alabama farmers in 17 southeastern counties have signed 31,869 pledges amounting to \$1,283,960.87 during the recent war stamp and bond pledge campaign. The farm people have also collected 1,734,602 pounds of scrap rubber. This collection exceeds their quota by nearly 200,000 pounds.



# Soil Conservation Association backs Extension program

W. R. TASCHER, Extension Conservationist, Missouri

■ Osage County is one of the 51 counties in Missouri where soil-improvement associations lend strong backing to the soil-building and soil-conserving programs of the Extension Service and other agencies. County Agent Don Spalding of that county says that more than 500 farmers now compose the county association which, like the others, is nonprofit in nature.

The range of activities now under way in Osage County explains to a degree the widespread interest in this organization. On a typical day, there are four limestone crushers operating to supply the 20,000 tons of agricultural limestone ordered this year, including that being paid for by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. This limestone is being quarried, orders assembled, quality checked, weights checked—all under the supervision of the organization. Twelve limestone spreaders owned by the group are used to spread the limestone. With this year's production, the association will have produced and distributed more than 50,000 tons of agricultural limestone.

There are 21 terracing blades available in the county—6 owned by the association, 5 by the Farm Security Administration, and the remainder by the groups and individuals who purchased them through the association. Six farm levels go along with the 6 blades, so each township has a level with which to lay out terraces. The association hopes to provide additional levels so that neighborhood groups will have access to them, especially for contouring. These are lent free of charge to members or to leaders who work on members' farms.

The most prized possession of the organization is a new terracing machine and a tractor to operate it. Although the association now owns a two-thirds interest in this equipment, it will assemble orders for terracing and gradually transfer its interest to a

private owner who will pay for it from the income.

Cooperation with the Missouri Conservation Commission has made possible a loan to the association of three fresnos for pond construction. These, together with pipe and assistance with the locating of ponds, have resulted in the construction of 90 ponds properly made, fenced, and piped for livestock. The association arranged, as necessary, for custom pond building in 1941, providing for the construction of 50 ponds in this manner.

The association arranges for tours and meetings so that farmers have a chance to see farm results. Last year, in cooperation with the county agent, officers of the organization studied the demonstrations available in the county and charted the tour for the public to see them. Fifty-five farmers made this trip and observed the practices chosen for their study.

The officers and directors of the group are elected annually, and they hold four regular meetings throughout the year. There is a small annual membership fee.

This association was started when the Soil Conservation Service initiated a limestone-crushing program in 1936 and was reorganized and incorporated in 1939 under the appropriate law for such nonprofit organizations and named "The Osage County Soil Improvement Association."

County Agent Spalding, in describing the purpose of the association, said: "Folks want to help in using the better practices of farming on their farms. Working together, they can do some things of this kind better than when working alone. The next several years will challenge the best in farmers to produce the needed food and, at the same time, not waste soil. Our association helps in getting farm plans translated into good farming on the land."

## Neighborhood leaders get farm coverage

■ According to reports from all 48 States, the neighborhood-leader system was set up in 95 percent of the rural counties on August 1. In all but 3 States, 1 or more jobs had been done on a State-wide basis through neighborhood leaders. In 11 States, 7 or more different types of wartime jobs had been done.

The system as worked out by the States divides the country into 257,000 neighborhoods, an average of 90 per county. The number of leaders needed was estimated as 633,000. The number of neighborhoods and neighborhood leaders will be somewhat larger before the system is finally completed.

On August 1, 530,000, or 84 percent, of the

neighborhood leaders had already been selected. Selection by a committee has been the usual method of obtaining neighborhood leaders in three-fifths of the counties. In one-fifth, they have been appointed by the extension agents; in one-tenth, they have been elected by neighbors; and in one-tenth, other methods of selection have been used.

Neighborhood leaders have lists of the families for which they are responsible in 93 percent of the counties where the system is set up. Community leaders who assist and supervise neighborhood leaders are part of the system in four-fifths of the counties. In all but one-fifth of the counties, a county-wide committee or council assists in developing plans and procedures for carrying wartime messages to rural families through neighborhood leaders. A typical county council includes 2 extension agents, 3 professional workers representing other agencies, and 15 farmers and homemakers representing the communities in the county.

Considerable variation occurs in the name by which neighborhood leaders are known in the States. In 23 States, they are known as neighborhood leaders; in 4, the term "Minute-men" is used; in 4, they are called Victory leaders; in others various names are used. Some are catchy, such as Victory volunteers and warclub leaders.

The three most common methods of informing rural people of the appointment of neighborhood leaders have been: (1) Newspaper announcement, (2) circular letter to all families, and (3) name and title of leader placed on literature that the leader distributes to families.

A "certificate of appointment" has been the most common type of recognition given to neighborhood leaders. Other types of recognition include acceptance or identification card and identification badge.

When the reports were made, about August 1, some aspect of the salvage program had been carried out through the neighborhood leaders in 35 States. These leaders have worked on anti-inflation in 32 States. Other types of program carried out through the neighborhood-leader system on a State-wide basis in 10 or more States are Food for Freedom, fire control, war stamps and bonds, farm labor, marketing and transportation, and farm-machinery repair. In the States where these programs have not been carried out through the new neighborhood-leader system, most of them have been carried out with the usual educational machinery available to the Extension Service.

In a typical neighborhood, the man and woman serving as neighborhood leaders have lists of the 18 farm families and of the rural nonfarm families living in the area they are expected to cover. These leaders have contacted the families personally and urged them to turn in scrap rubber and metal. They have asked families to fill out a cost-of-living check-sheet as a means of getting each family to do what it can to prevent inflation.



# Administrators go to school

PAUL E. MILLER, Director of Extension Service, Minnesota

■ "A distinct forward step in extension wartime service." "Cooperative Extension has explored administrative management and found a land of promise." In such terms did the 56 extension workers from 27 States and the District of Columbia express their satisfaction with the first Institute of Administrative Management for Extension Administrators and Supervisors held at the Center for Continuation Study, University of Minnesota, July 27 to August 7. The institute was organized in response to a recommendation presented to the 1941 meeting of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities by the subcommittee on extension administration and personnel training, Director J. W. Burch of Missouri, chairman.

The program and other arrangements were developed by a committee composed of Meredith C. Wilson of the Federal Extension Service; William Anderson, Political Science Department; Lloyd M. Short, professor of political science and director of the Training Center for Public Administrators; and J. M. Nolte, Center for Continuation Study, University of Minnesota; and the writer, representing the Extension Section of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

The general design of the institute was to devote the morning sessions to discussion by experts of the basic principles of administrative management, and the afternoon sessions to workshops, in order to bridge the gap between the academic approach and practical everyday extension problems. Three phases of administrative management received attention: Administrative organization, including governmental areas and intergovernmental relations; financial management; and personnel management.

Among the outstanding authorities who made up the institute faculty, one whose daily lectures were never "cut," was Prof. William Anderson. That "human relationships are the essence of organization" was emphasized repeatedly as he developed the topics of administrative organization, governmental areas, and intergovernmental relations.

Subject matter on financial management and procurement was largely presented by Clarence C. Ludwig, associate professor of political science and chief of the municipal reference bureau of the university. Special high lights were the lectures by William A. Jump, director of finance and budget officer of the United States Department of Agriculture. Said Mr. Jump, "Where the management concept prevails, progressive budgetary and financial administration can be a vital and useful instrument to top management in planning the program of work, financing the program of work, assuring effective and

economical program execution, accounting for the expenditure of public funds in a due and regular manner, and measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of the program of work."

Highly informative and stimulating discussions in the field of personnel management were presented by three University of Minnesota men: Prof. Lloyd M. Short; Dale Yoder, professor of economics and industrial relations; and Donald G. Paterson, professor of psychology. I. R. Andrews, mail order and headquarters assistant to the vice president in charge of personnel, Sears Roebuck & Co., Chicago, presented personnel management from the point of view of private industry.

The six institute workshops directed by Meredith C. Wilson met from 2 to 4 p. m. daily. Each group of 7 to 12 members was assigned a special field of work. In making workshop assignments, personal interest was given primary consideration. Distribution of members by States, regions, and lines of work was also considered. The workshop chairmen and secretaries were jointly responsible for the conduct of the workshops, including the preparation of reports setting forth such conclusions as had been reached. On the last day of the institute, these workshop reports were presented and discussed by the entire institute membership. Extension problems made the subject of comprehensive statements by workshop groups were: Organizational structures, financial management, integration and coordination, wartime supervision of counties, personnel

management, and administrative research.

The guest speakers at the four special dinner programs included President W. C. Coffee, University of Minnesota; W. A. Jump; I. R. Andrews; Prof. Fred B. Garver, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota; and Frank W. Peck, President of the St. Paul Federal Land Bank.

The largest delegation from outside Minnesota was from Kansas which brought five delegates headed by Director H. J. C. Umberger. Geographically, the group practically blanketed the Nation, as there were representatives from Washington and Oregon, from Maine and Massachusetts, and from Mississippi north to the Canadian border. An outstanding factor in the institute's success was acclaimed by all to be the unique accommodations offered by the Center for Continuation Study, which provided a complete home for the group and its work, including lodging, meals, garage, and a complete lay-out of beautifully appointed lecture and conference rooms, lounge, and recreation facilities.

## Pooling Resources

"Let's mobilize and utilize our community resources for the war effort" was the slogan adopted by Michigan farmers in Muskegon County. At each community get-together a list was made of the resources of that community. This was followed by a discussion of how these resources could be mobilized and utilized for war effort. Other projects of direct importance to the war effort, such as farm-machinery repair, Victory gardens, first-aid training, canning, food preparation, and enlisting boys and girls in summer 4-H Clubs were also presented.

The workshops held every afternoon bridged the gap between the academic approach and practical everyday extension problems.





# How to Get the News Around

As time goes on, I am impressed more and more with the possibilities of reaching our folks and getting our jobs done with the aid of radio and a carefully edited weekly column.

For instance there is the first collard seed episode. As a result of the first radio mention, I received 253 written replies. These called for more seed than I had, and Jim Lazar came to my rescue with about 6 quarts. That amount a little more than filled the bill, so I mentioned the second time on the radio that I still had a few of the seed left. The second broadcast brought 106 additional replies, which again called for more than I had, so Jim sent me more seed.

Since the second lot, like the first he gave me, was a little more than adequate, I mentioned in the weekly column that a few seeds were left over again. This brought 162 letters and cards and a few calls at the office for them.

So here we have a total of 521 folks who went to the trouble to sit down and write me for a few collard seed. Radio people tell me that it is thought excellent if 1 in 10 listeners respond in writing to a thing of this sort, and the newspaper ratio would likely be somewhere in the same neighborhood.

I had indications that we were reaching a lot of folks, but as I did not have anything definite to measure by, I used this collard-seed idea as a check. The response exceeded all expectations.—*J. M. Eleazer, county agent, Sumter County, S. C.*

## Better Sheep

Had Benjamin Franklin been living in Washington County, Wis., during the week beginning June 8, he would have been pleased with the adaptation of Poor Richard's "If you would have a thing done do it yourself." Likewise, he would have been pleased with the results his good advice accomplished.

A few months ago, County Agent "Bill" Dougherty organized a sheep-breeders' association in this northern area. He had a definite program of work for that association to do; but, he argued, like any other infant industry the newborn organization needed a bit of nursing along. After the first few steps, the association could be on its own, and with each succeeding step would be better able to accomplish the work cut out for it at time of organization.

Dougherty felt that one great need existed in the area—parasite control. If sheep were to make the best use of feeds and pastures and were to bring maximum returns, ticks, lice, stomach worms, tapeworms, and other pests must be shown the way out.

How to do it? The answer was easy.

Barron, a neighboring county, had a portable dipping vat that was not in use at the moment. Arrangements were made to rent the portable rig. An itinerary of sheep growers' farms was made.

# ONE WAY TO DO IT! Methods tried and found good

Dougherty's labor problem in dipping operations was equally easy to solve. Two interested and willing agricultural instructors, Aderhold at Spooner and Geiger at Shell Lake, offered to take time off and help with the first of the tasks set up by the newly organized group.

Each farm was made a demonstration on dipping and drenching. Each flock owner was shown how the work should be done. The cost of the materials was figured for him. Results were left for him to observe. In many cases, materials were left for future use in the same flocks.

Sheep are needed in the northern counties. They will thrive only when kept free of parasites. They will survive only in flocks given good care.

Dougherty and his excellent agricultural teachers know these things. They are trying to establish flocks on new farms; and education, direction, and service-of-supply in materials are essential factors in the success of their new ventures. For that reason wholesale education and action would be highly justified.

They recognized that their plan might not meet with the approval of many "chair swivellians," but reasoned for themselves that any time a portable vat can make nine farm stops in 1 day, dip and drench more than 800 head of sheep and lambs, do nine jobs of education on flock management, and build a foundation of future cooperative work, it's a definite accomplishment in anybody's county, any time. Yes, Benjamin Franklin would have been pleased.—*James Lacey, in Cooperative Wool Growers' News.*

## Nutrition Opportunities

Because of the emphasis on nutrition in relation to war activities, home agents in New Jersey have many calls to speak on nutrition before organized groups, where there is more opportunity to contact men as well as women. Because good nutrition involves so many factors in addition to food selection and preparation, such as food habits and the psychology of nutrition, it really is a family project. Therefore, it is gratifying to have the opportunity to discuss these factors with both parents. Recently, within 5 days after giving two talks, the agent had reports from

four families indicating a decision on the part of the menfolk to improve their attitudes and their food habits.

Many requests come from parent-teacher associations. To date, 18 talks and discussions have been held in Somerset County. The opportunity for reaching such groups usually comes only once a year; therefore, it seems advisable in discussing food standards to use the "yardstick" of good nutrition as set up at the national conference on nutrition. This yardstick follows very closely the standards that have been suggested by Extension for many years past. But with newer knowledge of nutrition and its application, such as to enriched foods, and the impetus given to the subject because of the war, there is a golden opportunity to urge people to do something definite toward improving health. In all the discussions, emphasis is given to the fact that better health through better nutrition is not a short-time objective for the emergency, but a long-time objective resulting in a healthier, stronger Nation.

The discussion of food standards usually results in some discussion on food habits and the psychological factors involved. The time is too short to go into detail, but enough is usually brought out to cause thinking and, we hope, acting on the subject after the meeting closes.—*Charlotte Embleton, home demonstration agent, Somerset County, N. J.*

## On the Calendar

- American Society of Agronomy, St. Louis, Mo., November 11-13.
- National Grange, Spokane, Wash., November 11-19.
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 16-18.
- Farmers Educational Cooperative Union, Oklahoma City, Okla., November 16-18.
- National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill., November 29-December 2.
- American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Chicago, Ill., December 7-9.
- National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, Chicago, Ill., December 1-3.
- National Association of County Agents, Chicago, Ill., December 1-2.
- 4-H Club Radio Program, Farm and Home Hour, Blue Network, December 5.
- American Farm Bureau Federation, Chicago, Ill., December 7.

1943 GARDENS are being planned. A subcommittee of the American Association of Economic Entomologists is making a survey of insecticides for home gardens and substitutes for those which have become strategic war materials.

IN BOLL WEEVIL-infested States, the fall campaign is under way to cut cotton stalks as soon as the cotton is picked. A new poster, "Starve Boll Weevils," is being given general distribution.



## Farm Labor Survey

In studying the effects of the war upon the farm labor situation in North Carolina, it was found that male labor on North Carolina farms is gradually being depleted. From December 1, 1941 to May 1, 1942, approximately 50,000 men and boys left North Carolina farms. About 44 percent of them entered some branch of the armed forces and the others went into nonagricultural occupations.

Two-thirds of the 28,000 single men between the ages of 20 and 45 years who had left farms entered military service. Other age groups were less affected. Of the married men 20 to 44 years of age, only 8,000—a little less than 5 percent of the available men in that class—had moved away. The youngsters, 14-19 years of age, made up 12,300 of the migrants, but only 3,600 of them entered the service, the remainder going into defense industries or some other nonagricultural work. Slightly more than 1 percent of the migrants were 45 to 65 years old.—**SOME EFFECTS OF THE WAR UPON THE FARM LABOR SITUATION IN NORTH CAROLINA**, by C. Horace Hamilton and Jay T. Wakeley, *North Carolina State College. Special Report, North Carolina State College of Agriculture, August 1942.*

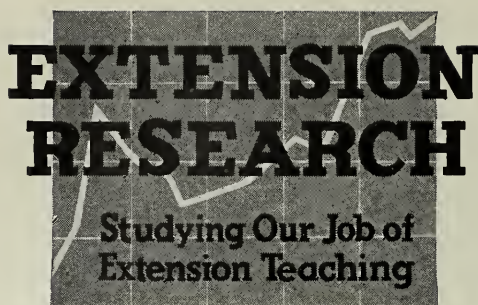
## Pre-War Inventories of Rural Youth

Before the war studies of Wisconsin's rural youth were made in Barron and Pierce Counties to find out what the young men and women out of school were doing and what they would like to do.

Information was gathered on the occupational, recreational, and social opportunities of the young people, as well as on the economic status of their parents.

Topping the list of occupational preferences for the young men was farming, and for the young women was house and office work. About two-thirds of the youth were satisfied with their vocations at the time the surveys were made. The majority of the unmarried young people (predominantly farm) were working at their parents' home without cash compensation, most of them doing so because they were needed. Approximately three-fourths of the village males reported working at home because they were unable to find work elsewhere. About half of the youth reported some work with pay during the preceding 12-month period. Paid employment for the boys was chiefly farming, with some trucking and road crew work; and for the girls, house and office work.

Available at the University of Wisconsin, these studies published in March and May 1942, for Pierce and Barron Counties are reported under the over-all title, **RURAL YOUTH IN NORTHWEST WISCONSIN**, by A. F. Wileden of the *Agricultural College staff*, and others.



## Ohio Studies Youth Migration

To check on the whereabouts of some of the 1,602 rural youth 18 to 27 years, studied in Ross County, Ohio, in 1940, a follow-up survey was made last March.

About 45 percent of the 560 young people resurveyed had moved away from the rural areas of the county. Half of the men and 38 percent of the women had moved away from the farms and villages. About 40 percent of the male migrants had been inducted into the armed forces, 30 percent having enlisted. Thirty-two percent of the men had moved to nearby industrial centers.

Brought out in the study is the effect of the rural youth migration on the available supply of farm labor. For instance, 30 percent of all the male migrants were engaged in farm work in 1940 before they moved. In 1942, after they had moved, only 4 percent were known to have continued in agriculture in their new locations. Of the young men who entered nonfarm industries, 23 percent left farm employment, and 33 percent of those who entered the armed forces left farm jobs.

The loss of farm workers through migration of male youth was compensated for in part by a shift from nonfarm to farm jobs by those who remained in rural areas. Fifty-one percent of the nonmigrant men were engaged in farm work in 1942 as compared with 43 percent in 1940.—**WAR AND MIGRATION OF RURAL YOUTH (A Study of Ross County, Ohio)**, by A. R. Mangus and Christopher E. Sower, *Ohio State University. Ohio Univ. Mimeograph Bulletin No. 149, June 1942.*

## How To Make a Survey

Helpful suggestions on how to go about making a community survey are given in a Minnesota extension publication entitled, "Making Community Surveys." Who should make social surveys, how to organize them, and the relation of the survey to the community are topics receiving discussion.

The publication brings out the desirability of having community surveys organized by responsible local committees or organizations rather than by individuals, and "then only after careful exploration of the need and purpose to be served." Also discussed is the importance of keeping the community fully informed on the progress of the survey through

prudent publicity, so as to stimulate the citizens to share the responsibility for carrying out the survey, and to help promote any community changes suggested by the results of the survey.

Various authors are quoted on the definition of "Rural Community." Suggestive outlines for a number of different fields or phases of community life are given containing items on which information should be gathered in making studies of these subjects. The fields for which outlines are given are: Community history, health and sanitation, local government, educational and religious resources, recreational facilities, and public welfare of the community. Bibliographical references in these various fields are also given.—**MAKING COMMUNITY SURVEYS**, by Lowry Nelson and Olaf Wakefield, *University of Minnesota. Minnesota Extension Service Pamphlet No. 73, January 1941.*

## New Jersey Studies "Participation"

Seeking to find out why rural New Jersey homemakers do or do not take part in extension activities, extension workers visited 223 homemakers living in typical farm and non-farm areas. It was found that for every woman who participated in extension there was one who did not. On the average, the homemaker who had not entered into extension activities showed no marked differences from her participating neighbor.

The average participating New Jersey homemaker had lived in her present home for 15½ years. The house was located on an improved road. The family owned an automobile and subscribed for a daily newspaper, a local weekly, and four magazines. On the average, each homemaker was about 45 years of age and had two children. One child was a 4-H Club member. Two out of three participating homemakers had attended high school.

The participating and nonparticipating homemakers were essentially similar in regard to home, automobile, magazine and newspaper subscriptions, and formal education. The nonparticipating homemaker, however, had lived in her present home only 8 years and was less likely to drive the family automobile. Her family was slightly smaller and had subscribed for one less newspaper or magazine. She would attend occasional extension meetings and perhaps take part in extension activities if she knew more about them.

Suggestions for greater extension participation and other related information are set forth in the 1942 New Jersey Extension Service mimeographed pamphlet, **PARTICIPATION IN HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION WORK**, by Mildred B. Murphy of the *New Jersey Extension Service*; and Fred Frutchey and Gladys Gallup of the *Federal staff*.



# Ration board uses neighborhood leaders to insure fair tire distribution

J. A. WILSON, County Agent, Polk County, North Carolina

■ Transportation for farmers in Polk County, N. C., as in other counties in the United States, is fast becoming a serious problem. Realizing that planning and cooperation by rural people themselves would pay dividends, the services of the neighborhood-leader system, just beginning to function efficiently, were offered to the county rationing board. Tire rationing to rural people of the county was a knotty problem on which the board welcomed the help of the neighborhood leader.

At the request of the rationing board, neighborhood haulers were elected by the people in each of the 36 neighborhoods of the county, except 3 which are near town and do not especially need haulers. All the families in the neighborhood were notified by neighborhood leaders before this meeting that the rubber situation demanded that group or neighborhood hauling be done and that the purpose of the meeting was to elect haulers or work out some method of getting farm produce from farm to market and farm supplies back to the farm.

In every case, the group decided to have neighborhood haulers and proceeded to elect by vote first-, second-, and third-choice haulers. Most of those elected were present and accepted the duty as their contribution to the war effort.

The cost of hauling was discussed by these groups, and it was decided to leave this to be agreed upon between the hauler and the farmers. Many of those elected have been hauling for their neighbors for several years, and they have worked out hauling charges satisfactorily. If a hauler were found to be overcharging or taking other advantage of a farmer, a complaint could be taken to the local leaders who could call a meeting. The complaint would then be discussed, and, if the group desired, someone else could be elected in place of the hauler who was overcharging.

Farm truck owners who were not elected as neighborhood hauler and other rural truckers were all classified as commercial haulers. Tires were issued to them by the rationing boards according to whether the boards felt them to be necessary to public health, safety, or to the war effort.

The Agricultural Workers' Council prepared a form on which the local leaders certified to the election of the neighborhood hauler. This form is placed in the council's files, and a notice is sent to the rationing board concerning the certification.

The rationing board has a large colored county map on the wall showing the communities and neighborhoods in each community. It also has a list of all community

and neighborhood leaders and their addresses. Anything pertaining to tire rationing is taken up with these local leaders by the rationing board.

One meeting of all community leaders concerning the rationing of sugar, gas, and tires has been called by the rationing board. The necessary information was given to community leaders, who took it back to neighborhood leaders who, in turn, carried it to their neighbors and assisted them in carrying out their part of the program.

Through use of colored-headed tacks on the map, the rationing board can see at a glance that each neighborhood is getting its share of the tires coming to the county. Of course some neighborhoods will do more hauling than others and will need more tires.

The policy of the board has been to try to keep all the No. 1 haulers rolling, and if any additional rubber becomes available, to supply the No. 2 haulers. When and if both these groups ever get supplied, the No. 3 hauler will get rubber. The No. 2 hauler in the neighborhoods having the greatest amount to haul will be supplied with rubber before other No. 2 haulers. The same procedure would be true with No. 3 haulers.

As a whole, the plan has been working beautifully. It was hard for some farmers to be convinced that rubber would not be available for all of them. Some have asked for special consideration, but when they were always sent back to their local leaders this soon ceased. With the experimental period partially over, the program of rationing rubber to our farmers is in a gratifying condition.

The neighborhood leaders in Polk County are sponsored by the county agricultural workers' council which did the groundwork on their organization. The county is divided into six townships, each agricultural worker taking one township to organize.

The agricultural workers' council first selected a few leaders to meet at a central point in each of the six townships to explain the set-up, mark off community and neighborhood boundaries on the county map, and elect neighborhood leaders for each neighborhood.

After the community meetings, neighborhood leaders held meetings to study the outline of their neighborhoods. The names and addresses of each family in the neighborhood were listed, as were vacant houses and idle farms. All families were included on the neighborhood lists except those living inside corporate limits.

To date, neighborhood leaders have called meetings to explain sugar rationing, the sal-

vage program, repair of farm machinery, Victory Gardens, control of inflation, and gas and rubber rationing.

The success of a program such as we have in Polk County depends largely on the attitude of the rationing board itself and the cooperation of neighborhood leaders. The set-up seems ideal; and if rubber continues to be rationed, it will be about the only way to solve the rural transportation problem in many counties.

## A. T. Holman Appointed Extension Agricultural Engineer

Adam T. Holman has been appointed Extension agricultural engineer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Holman has been with the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering for a number of years, and in his new capacity will represent the Extension Service and the Bureau. The appointment was made to provide better cooperation with State Extension Services in the handling of engineering problems arising in the urgent wartime programs which must be carried on in spite of shortages of labor and materials. He has already taken up his new duties.

Mr. Holman, a graduate of Pennsylvania State College, has had 20 years experience in agricultural engineering work, including research, Extension, and farm development. Before coming to the Department of Agriculture 11 years ago, he was extension agricultural engineer in North Carolina for 6 years, his work including farm machinery, buildings, rural electrification, water supply, land clearing, drainage, and erosion control. For a time he engaged in the development of old rice plantations in South Carolina.

During his first years with the Department of Agriculture he conducted engineering investigations at the Soil Erosion Station at Bethany, Mo. While in the Department his work has included farm power and machinery investigations, farm housing studies, the investigation of agricultural engineering problems in Puerto Rico, and field supervision of farm operation efficiency investigations.

Mr. Holman's services are available for cooperation with State extension engineers not only for work in promoting the war programs, but also for work on the general improvement of efficiency of farms and the convenience and comfort of farm homes.

■ As part of their fire-fighting activities, Nevada 4-H Club members have been making surveys of their farms and those of their neighbors for possible fire hazards. When hazards are discovered, the 4-H members call them to the farmers' attention. Often the boys and girls get busy and clean up rubbish piles and wood and brush patches themselves. They also see that inflammables are properly stored.



# Last-minute items

## Reflecting current extension activities as we go to press

**DEFEATING THE ENEMY** on the battle front is the immediate objective of 860 extension workers who are now in active military service. On January 1, 1942, there were 250 extension workers on active military duty. Each month during 1942, about 50 additional men have given up their home-front activities to prepare for the battle front.

A rather large proportion of the extension workers are serving as officers. It is estimated that about 400 were reserve officers before they were called to active duty. All Extension is proud of this record.

The normal annual turn-over of men extension workers is 6 percent. In 1942 it has been approximately 18 percent. Annual turn-over of women workers has shown some increase from the normal of 13 percent to about 15 percent in 1942. In addition to carrying forward agriculture's wartime education programs, many experienced agents have the responsibility for training one or more of the 1,500 new workers employed in 1942.

**MARKETING THE RECORD PIG CROP** occupies the attention of both Department and State workers. The chairmen of U. S. D. A. war boards in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota have appointed special committees to study the problems and outline a complete program and recommendations on procedure so as to inform all hog farmers of the marketing and processing situation in these States. The State Director of Extension is a member of this committee in his State. The heavy load is expected in December and January, and every effort is being made to prepare for it.

**THE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE**, held earlier this year, October 19 to 23, so that the information would be made more quickly available for State outlook programs emphasized particularly war problems. About 100 State extension workers, representing practically all the States, attended the sessions on inflation control, parity, labor, production materials, food rationing, family spending and saving, marketing, and post-war problems, at which leaders from the war agencies and the Department discussed the problems of agriculture in wartimes. One full day was devoted to the problems of managed marketing in wartimes and another day to extension methods including discussion on the use of the neighborhood leaders on economic problems.

**REGIONAL MACHINERY CONFERENCES** held in each of the four regions during the past month formulated a wartime program

for agricultural engineers in 1943. Although farm machinery received major attention, it was conceded that such subjects as farm structures involving scarce materials, care and repair of household equipment, rural fire control, and safety would be on the program for 1943.

**MACHINERY RATIONING** will give farmers about one-fourth the amount of new farm machines bought this year. The other three-fourths will have to be made up by reconditioning machines which ordinarily would be discarded. To make them last longer thorough overhauling will be required rather than just repairing; and in connection with this, extension agents have a big educational job.

A **TRUCKING POOL** saves gasoline, tires, and time for farmers in the volcano district of Hawaii and on the island of Oahu. A fixed schedule of transportation is made out eliminating half loads in getting produce to market. A survey of Oahu milk producers and distributors is being made to determine further ways of saving.

**TRAINING NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS** is a problem in many States, and many extension workers are giving the matter considerable thought. On a recent visit to Missouri, Karl Knaus of the Washington staff, found State agents, both men and women, systematically visiting a group of neighborhood leaders in each county in company with the county extension agents to promote a better understanding of the neighborhood-

leader system and the job to be done by the leaders. Reports sent by leaders in Osage County, Mo., showed that at least 75 percent of all the farm families in the county were represented at neighborhood meetings for the discussion of the President's seven-point program to prevent the rise in cost of living.

**LEAFLETS FOR LEADERS**, which are simple enough and attractive enough to help the leader do the job, are necessary to the effective functioning of the neighborhood-leader system. To facilitate the handling of this problem in North Dakota, a committee of three—the home demonstration leader, the county agent leader, and the 4-H Club leader—was appointed to give the problem some study and to review all literature designed for the neighborhood leaders.

**SAFETY FIRST** should be a watchword with all workers—those in offices and those on farms. A safety campaign recommended by the Department of Agriculture Safety Committee calls for a wider distribution of the facts on accidents and common hazards and the taking of adequate steps to cut down such waste during wartime when manpower is at a premium. As a contribution to the labor-shortage problem, the campaign calls for State and county safety committees to arrange an educational campaign.

**PENNSYLVANIA PORK PRODUCTION** is estimated at 18 percent greater this year than last. Among the extension methods used for encouraging pork production was the new motion picture, "The Pork Way to Victory," shown at 76 swine growers' meetings last winter and spring. The animal husbandry specialist also helped the State Swine Breeders' Associations to place 283 bred gilts with 230 farmers in 41 counties.

**INSTEAD OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, Ohio is holding sectional schools for agents, devoted to problems of outstanding importance to the war program.

A **SHOW AND SCRAP RALLY** took the place of the Preble County, Ohio, fair this year and was put on by 4-H Club members. Banks, businessmen, and farm organizations underwrote the budget with the awards in war stamps. More than 2,000 people came to see the young people's farm and home exhibits and to add to the salvage collection.

**MAINE HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS** report an average of 60 demonstrations and food-preservation meetings held in each county. Neighborhood leaders functioned effectively in arranging for these demonstrations and in carrying the information to homemakers unable to attend. Eight hundred and forty neighborhood groups arranged the demonstrations. More than 50,000 circulars on food preservation were distributed by these leaders.

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